Goldwater Reaction: 'Shocking, Dreadful'

MUNCIE, Ind. (UPI) — Sen. Barry F. Goldwater expressed shock and grief at President Kennedy's assassination Friday and then went into seclusion at a relative's home under the guard of a special police detail.

Goldwater, who had been considered a potential rival of Kennedy in the 1964 presidential calling the President's assassination "shocking and dreadful."

He retreated into the privacy of Mrs. John Drum's home, where he arrived Friday for the funeral of his mother-in-law. Mrs. Drum — a cousin of Mrs. Goldwater — said "he will not come to the phone — he is not taking any calls."

Police On Guard

A four-man special police detail met Goldwater when he arrived at Muncie airport in his private plane and stood guard around the Drum home.

Detective Jim Peters said the special guard was a precautionary measure, undertaken by city police without prompting from the federal government agencies, and that there were no known threats on Goldwater's life.

The Arizona Republican came here for the funeral of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Anna Davis Johnson. The 79-year-old woman died Tuesday night in Phoenix, Ariz. A. Goldwater aide said the senator would return to Washington Saturday afternoon immediately after the funeral.

"It is both shocking and dreadful that a thing like this could happen in a free country," the senator's statement said.

"The President's death is a profound loss to the nation and the free world. He and I were personal friends. It is also a great loss to me.

"Mrs. Goldwater and I offer our heartfelt sympathies to Mrs. Kennedy and the President's family."